

How My Office Can Help You

My office staff is available to assist veterans in a variety of matters. We can help in applying for VA benefits, answering questions about health care including the special needs of disabled veterans, obtaining copies of your separation papers, service records, and replacing lost medals. For more information, please feel free to call my Lorain County office at **440-245-5350** or my Summit County offices at **330-865-8450**.

Please visit www.house.gov/sherrodbrown and click on the veterans services page for updated information on veterans services and legislation and links to veterans organizations.

Congressman Brown participated in the Memorial Day service at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery on May 30. Congressman Brown was instrumental in securing funding for the cemetery, working with area veterans to bring the first national cemetery to northeast Ohio. The Cemetery was dedicated in September 2000.

Congressman Brown's office is able to secure U.S. flags which can be flown over the U.S. Capitol. Each flag comes with a certificate of authenticity, indicating the date on which it was flown. Flag order forms are available on Congressman Brown's Web site at www.house.gov/sherrodbrown. Complimentary pocket-sized copies of the United States Constitution are available by calling Congressman Brown's Lorain County or Summit County offices.

For more information visit me at:

www.house.gov/sherrodbrown



DISTRICT OFFICES

205 W. 20th Street
Suite M230
Lorain, Ohio 44052
(440) 245-5350
(440) 245-5355 fax

1655 W. Market Street
Suite E
Akron, Ohio 44313
(330) 865-8450
(330) 865-8470 fax

WASHINGTON OFFICE

2332 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3401
(202) 225-2266 fax
sherrod@mail.house.gov

Congressman

Sherrod Brown

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Official Business



Sherrod Brown

M.C.
PRSRT STD



Congressman Sherrod Brown Reports TO VETERANS

WWII Memorial

The National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC was dedicated on May 29, 2004, honoring the 16 million veterans of the war. The official dedication celebration spanned four days. It included: a WWII-themed reunion exhibition on the National Mall staged in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage; a service of celebration at the Washington National Cathedral; and an entertainment salute to WWII veterans from military performing units. Veterans from Ohio's 13th District came to Washington to attend the dedication and share their experiences at a welcome reception in Congressman Brown's office.

REPORT TO VETERANS

Survivor Benefit Penalty

Congressman Brown has worked with his Democratic colleagues to eliminate an unfair burden placed on the spouses of deceased veterans. Currently, the vast majority of military spouses face a drastic reduction from 55% to 35% in their Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities when they reach age 62. This provision, which Brown supported, was included in the Department of Defense (DoD) authorization bill passed by the House. Brown is hopeful the bill will be signed into law this summer.

Budget Update

President Bush has outlined significant cuts in many important federal services, including the Department of Veterans Affairs, in his FY 06 budget. He proposes to cut the VA budget by more than \$900 million from the 2005 level, a cut of 3.1%. Congressman Brown will oppose these proposed cuts and work to ensure veterans receive the health care and benefits they earned.

Brown Presents Award to Vietnam Veteran

Congressman Brown joined members of the Lorain Veterans Council in honoring James Gallagher, a local Vietnam-era serviceman, as Veteran of the Year. Brown presented the award to Mr. Gallagher at the 58th Lorain Veterans Council Annual Banquet held at the Italian American Veterans Post 1 in March. Mr. Gallagher served in the U.S. Air Force from 1966 to 1974, and in the Vietnam War in 1968 with the U.S. Air Force 460th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing.

Seeds for Soldiers

Congressman Brown has cosponsored H.R. 3483, the Seeds for Soldiers Act, which creates a specialized loan program for veterans through the Small Business Administration. This program would provide the seeds for veteran-owned businesses to grow into sustainable entities that can benefit the larger goal of local community and economic development, and establish a vocational rehabilitation program for veterans specifically designed to assist in the transition from military service to entrepreneurship.



Ohio veterans visit Congressman Brown's Washington D.C. office during Memorial Day Weekend to celebrate the dedication of the World War II Memorial.

Brecksville VA Hospital Update

Despite efforts by Congressman Brown and hundreds of veterans in northeast Ohio, the administration announced the closing of three VA hospitals, including one in Brecksville, Ohio.

After meeting with hundreds of veterans, Brown spoke with the Secretary of the Veterans Administration personally and urged him not to close the Brecksville hospital, and initiated a letter from

members of the Ohio congressional delegation reinforcing this message. This closure means veterans will have to travel farther and wait longer for their health care needs. Brecksville continues to pioneer innovative, nationally recognized programs and services for homeless veterans with mental illnesses.

The VA has promised consolidation plans will transfer services and programs to the Wade Park

facility in Cleveland. It is important that veterans in northeast Ohio continue receiving the quality health care services upon which they rely. Congress has 60 days to review the administration's decision. Brown will continue to monitor the VA consolidation plans and hold the administration to its promise to maintain the level of services and access to health care Ohio veterans have earned.